



## MEETING MINUTES / 17 NOVEMBER 2015

### ATTENDANCE:

Present: Sarg, Farley, Armbruster, Carroll, Corsa, Lardizzone, McMullen, Newman, Newstadt, and Seppala,  
**71.4%**

Excused Absences: Showell (Temporary Duty), Smith (Medical), and Weir (Medical)

Unexcused Absence: Hampton

Guest: Pat Cerchio-Vieira (1st State Military Women Warriors) and Vivian Starnes (DAVA)

### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Thanked the commissioners for supporting the Veterans Day events.

### MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made and the minutes were approved.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

#### VAMC- Jim Coty, Public Affairs:

The center is experiencing multiple staffing changes to include Assistant Director, Operations; Nursing Executive, and Chief Health Administrative Services.

Sussex CBOC: the building contractor has 30 days to submit and initial design; hiring a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner; working on installing call center; and the projected completion date for the new facility is November 2016.

VAMC road construction will continue until cold weather and the Caregiver Support Event was positively received.

- (Sarg) has Gary Morris been approached (reference veteran transportation) by the VAMC?  
Not sure

#### Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Currently 138 residents and next admissions meeting is 23 November.

Discussed concern of a family that stated their veteran family member was not admitted.

- Veteran was actually approved several times but the family did not accept

Discussed a National Guard member who was not eligible for admission due to limited time served with no activation time.

The Activities Coordinator is out and the department is short three personnel.

Attended a White House dinner and mentioned veteran benefits and long-term care to the President.

A couple has discussed donating their land, adjacent to home, for future growth.

- Will discuss during admissions meeting.

- (Newstadt) What is your vision for the land addition?

An Adult Day Care facility, which would require about \$8M with state/VA funding.

Finishing the Miles and Smiles (dental van) contract.

- Will provide limited dental services on campus and may open up to veterans state-wide.

There is no Director of Nursing, went on long term disability, new hire begins 30 November.

- (Carroll) How is the dining hall?

Doing well with the new director, seeking supplement funding from VA, and making specific meals for residents. Open meals are not yet available.

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Thanks for the groundbreaking ceremony attendance, approximately 70 attendees.

Please consider donating to the home through the Capitol Campaign (online).

There are presently 15 males and 4 females (w/o children).

Home Depot donated housing items for the male facility and provided manpower for installation.

Groundbreaking for the female facility should occur within the month, had a slight delay due to needing to upgrade the (projected) sprinkler system.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF 24 requests, 15 granted, \$9009.00 awarded, and \$67,807.00 balance.

Commissioner Smith was briefly hospitalized.

Attended an End Veteran Suicide Rally produced by a young National Guardsman.

Attended DE Center for Homeless Veterans meeting for proposed female/family shelter in Wilmington.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No comments.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**

There were some road repairs at the site.

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Corsa:**

No report.

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen**

Composing list for legislative issues, request that members forward their concerns.

Will seek to increase tax exemption for state income tax and exempt property tax for disabled veterans.

**Commemorative Affairs, Commissioner Showell**

No report.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

New elections upcoming for the Dover chapter.

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

The Legion's Washington DC meeting discussed declining post membership numbers.

Sons of American Legion fundraiser raised monies for a young heart transplant recipient.

Attended New Castle landlord meeting and more landlords are willing to help veterans.

Commissioner Weir (AMVETS)

No report.

Commissioner Smith (Del Vets)

No report.

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

The outreach vehicle is being used and a new vehicle has been ordered.

Thanks for the help with the Gulf War Memorial.

The next Veterans Day Parade is projected for 5 November 2016.

Commissioner Newstadt (JWV)

No report.

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

The organization's plaque is finally in the DVH.

Toys for Tots drive is beginning, please donate a new unwrapped toy ages 0 – 15 years.

Attended national homeless veterans summit teleconference and Delaware is doing well compared to other states.

W.L. Gore donated \$500.00 towards ending veteran homelessness.

Visited First State Military Academy: students are motivated, building have been upgraded, and invited leadership to brief the commission.

Chairman Sarg (MOAA)

The logo has changed with a motto, "Never Stop Serving."

The organization continues to work Capitol Hill recommendations.

Commissioner Carroll (MOPH)

The National Service Officer will be replaced and officer information can be found on the website.

The organization donated \$5K toward the DVTF.

Commissioner Seppala (MOWW)

Attended the DuPont Employee Veterans Day Event where Commissioner Carroll was recognized for service, receiving the Purple Heart, and his 90th birthday.

Provided Veterans Day comments at the Cokesbury Retirement Village.

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Participating in the Millsboro Cemetery, Wreaths Across American Ceremony on 12 December.

Voice of Democracy submissions are being reviewed at the Departmental level.

Raised funds for the Code Purple meals program.

Provided flyers promoting the 23 January Arctic Blast fundraiser, benefitting the DAFB Mental Health Clinic.

Team Red, White, and Blue is partnering with the organization through yoga (see flyer).

Please donate clothes to Post 3238, supporting Code Purple, every Friday beginning in December.

Commissioner Corsa (VVA)

A TBI meeting is scheduled for the last Wednesday in November.

Attended the Veteran Service Officer conference and obtained veteran assistance information.

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

No report.

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****POW/MIA Chair of Honor at DCVA (OPEN)**

Chair request is scheduled through the Legislative Council on 18 November.  
Following approval will coordinate with the DOC for refurbishing.

**Public University “Course Scheduling Preference” (OPEN)**

DTCC is good, Wilmington University wants to be included, and awaiting information from University of Delaware.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Director Kirby proposed having the July 2016 commission meeting in New Castle and the August 2016 meeting in Sussex. A motion was made, seconded, and the venue change was approved.

- (Sarg) Requested that each organization provide their Departmental/State leadership listing to Sable by the next meeting. This will increase our communication with service organizations.
- (Kirby) Discussed upgrading the conference room to include projector/screen, changed audience seating, a new conference table, and dial-in capability.

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The Wreaths Across America ceremony is scheduled for 7 December, Legislative Hall.

**NEXT MEETING:**                      **Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at 10:00 AM**  
**LOCATION:**                              **802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE**